Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the Specification in this application as follows:

Page 4, line 18 – page 5, line 16:

A laboratory container such as a glass vial is chosen and the coefficient of thermal expansion of the glass is determined. In general coefficient of expansion for lab glass is called 33 and 51 type. Thereafter a ceramic based paint and preferably a white ceramic based paint such as used in ceramic glass decorating and which has a coefficient of thermal expansion substantially the same as the glass is applied to a predetermined geometric area of the glass container. An example of a container having such a coating in a certain fixed area of the glass container is provided by the firm [[if]] of Kimble Kontes and Wheaton Scientific Co. in New Jersey.

Alternatively, glassware may have white colored ceramic paint applied thereto, for example, by screen printing, pad printing, or spray printing wherein the ceramic paint is fired once applied at a temperature in the range of about 1100° F to enhance chemical bonding to the glass. Preferably nonlead ceramic paints are utilized inasmuch as they are believed to be preferred for laboratory use and in the laboratory environment. Nonlead ceramic paints [[are]] will change color from a white color to a brown color when exposed to a laser beam. The resultant brown color is stable and inert. Further, the area of such a white ceramic nonlead paint when not exposed to a laser will remain as a white color. Glass containers with nonlead ceramic paint which are white in color can be supplied by Morgan Meredith, Inc.

Page 6, lines 5 – 16:

Once having obtained the glassware, or glass apparatus having an area with a ceramic paint coating, the coating is exposed to a laser beam. Various types of laser beams may be utilized. The beam is, however, focused upon the ceramic patch or layer and a bar code, numeric code, or alphabetic code or combinations thereof may be printed on the label. The laser beam interacts with the ceramic coating causing it to change color ~~or frosted appearance (for glass)~~. An example of such a laser beam device is made by Domino and identified as CO_2 laser ~~coader~~ coder GGM-1S with a 125 mm lens. The laser power setting for such a device may be varied from 1 percent to 90 percent. For example, the above identified laser may be set at 7 percent power for a glass tube wherein the movement of the beam is at 3 inches per second with a resolution of 150. The laser coding device is preferably equipped with appropriate software package for sequential and one dimensional and two dimensional bar codes.

Page 7, lines 3 – 16:

By using the invention paper, film, and other adhesive bonded labels are no longer required. The labeling approach is solvent free, caustic free, temperature independent and scratchproof, inexpensive, and quick, easily automated and not subject to weight change. The labels will, in effect, remain intact and permanent after autoclaving or subjected to other chemical, heat, or pressure processing. Storage at various temperatures is also possible with such labeling. Additionally, large expanses of space are not required to provide a legible and easily used label area. Labels can be located on bottoms, caps, and other small areas of a container not easy with paper adhesive labels.

~~[fix this]~~ With the process of the invention, the ceramic paint may be applied to the container just shortly before application of the laser energy thereto for ease of automation. This provides for greater flexibility with respect to the use and utility of the containers. The labels are thin and will not rub off of the container or alter dimensions thereby enabling use of items so labeled in automated equipment lines without special adjustment.